



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 16, 2002

Mr. William Paul Goranson, Manager
Radiation Safety, Licensing and
Regulatory Compliance
Rio Algom LLC
6305 Waterford Blvd., Suite 325
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

SUBJECT: EROSION PROTECTION DESIGN FOR LICENSE CONDITION 52 AND SITE
VISIT - APRIL 3, 2002 (TAC No. L52343)

Dear Mr. Goranson:

On April 3, 2002, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff visited with you at Rio Algom LLC's Lisbon uranium facility near La Sal, Utah. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the erosion protection requirements of the site and the design documentation which was submitted in February of 2001. A brief summary of the site visit is enclosed.

During the initial meeting, we discussed the general requirements for erosion control designs and the type of documentation required to support the designs. In addition, we discussed the need for additional designs for areas referred to as the upper drainage areas. These are the areas outside of the tailings impoundment where run-on can concentrate causing erosive forces on the tailings. A site tour allowed us to visit all areas of the site. At the upper drainage areas, we discussed the general requirements of this type of drainage scenario. Rio Algom staff agreed that the designs of all the upper drainage areas would be revised to ensure the tailings are stabilized. We also discussed possible sedimentation of the channels and determined that the need for additional studies was not necessary due to the geologic features of the site.

Documentation of the erosion control design was also discussed among the attendees. NRC staff noted that the new design should be submitted as a coherent report and contain all supporting documentation or clearly reference it. You agreed that you and your staff would revise the design as necessary and submit a new report that will satisfy each requirement of License Condition 52. You also indicated that this process would likely be completed within the next few months.

At this time, we will close the Technical Assignment Control Number (TAC No.) L52343 which is associated with this activity. A new TAC No. will be generated at the time you submit a new report.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the

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Mr. W. P. Goranson

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Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact NRC Project Manager, Jill Caverly, at 301-415-6699 or by e-mail to JSC1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. Gillen, Chief
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket 40-8084
License SUA-1119

Enclosure

cc: A. Gallegos, Utah State Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

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**SITE VISIT TO THE RIO ALGOM- LISBON MILL FACILITY
LA SAL, UT
APRIL 3, 2002**

GENERAL

On April 3, 2002, Jill Caverly and Ted Johnson of the Uranium Processing Section, Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch, visited the Rio Algom - Lisbon uranium mill facility to discuss the proposed erosion protection designs for the site. The site visit was made to support the review of the erosion control facility designs which Rio Algom submitted in accordance with License Condition 52.

SITE VISIT

Upon arriving at the site, NRC staff were greeted by Mr. William Paul Goranson and Frank Fossey, RSO, of Rio Algom Mining LLC and were escorted to a conference room for a meeting with Rio Algom representatives Joe Bierschied and Larry Axtell. Also in attendance were John Satterfield and George Hennessee of C.H. Guernsey & Co., the engineering consulting firm finalizing the erosion control plan.

After introductions and general comments, Mr. Ted Johnson discussed the general concerns of the NRC staff regarding the erosion control design submittal. Two important issues were the documentation of the design and the completeness of the design. Also, Mr. Johnson explained that the purposes of the site visit were to familiarize NRC staff with the site, to verify the need for certain erosional features, and to discuss the amount, type and organization of the data to be submitted.

After a brief discussion was held regarding the requirements for the erosion control features, the group toured the site and visited the location of major erosional features of the design. During the tour, the licensee and consultants agreed that the "upper drainage areas" should be redesigned to account for velocity and to dissipate energy of the run-off before it travels over the tailings pile. Sedimentation of the diversion channel was discussed and determined not to be a serious factor due to the bedrock features near the channel.

The visit concluded with a short exit meeting in which Rio Algom agreed to revise the erosion control design for changes discussed at the site and to incorporate additional design details into a new report that will be submitted to the NRC during FY02.

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